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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

3 February 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. MARK
DR. COOK CWC

SUBJECT: GAO Report "Review of DoD's Reconnaissance
Intelligence Assets (GAO Code 951357)"

The Staff has reviewed both the SECRET version (at the right) and the TK supplement (Attachment 1) to the GAO report and has discussed the proposed response with ASD (C³I), the OPR for OSD. The SECRET report primarily concerns tactically-related issues while the supplement addresses national and strategic reconnaissance assets.

ASD (C³I) has drafted a lengthy response to the SECRET version for Dr. Dinneen's signature to Mr. Gutmann. The theme of the response is that while the report points out areas which need emphasis such as survivability, C³, and intelligence product sanitization and dissemination, there are numerous inaccuracies. The most significant misconceptions are the conclusions the report draws concerning the availability of reconnaissance assets to support the theater commanders, the lack of emphasis on theater needs versus national needs, and the one dramatization of the problems inherent in transitioning from peacetime to wartime in Europe. The latter stems from a somewhat distorted view of the U.S. role in NATO.

ASD(C³I) intends to strongly recommend that the GAO team meet with DoD representatives to attempt to resolve these issues prior to publication. The NRO will be on distribution for the OSD response to GAO.

The TK supplement is a predictable report in that it presents the theater commanders' viewpoint of all the national/tactical issues. The report blames the DCI and SecDef for denying access to the NRP. We have recommended that the reference to the SecDef be removed and that the tone of the sentence in the preface be softened (change "denied" to "not provided"). In addition, the Staff recommended the response time for the series satellites be changed to reflect the

(Appendix C and D)

Colonel, USAF
Acting Director

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